

	CASES INVOLVING CHILDREN ABSENT FROM COURT-ORDERED PLACEMENT WITHOUT LEGAL PERMISSION	LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER C36 2016-03
		RESCINDS: C36 2003-02

Court Address
212 E. Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw, MI 49079

Court Telephone No.
(269) 657-8200

This local administrative order is issued in accordance with Michigan Supreme Court Administrative Order 2002-04. The purpose of this order is to establish the 36th Circuit Court's plan for reviewing cases involving children who are absent from court-ordered placement without legal permission.

IT IS ORDERED:

1. The Presiding Judge of the 36th Circuit Court – Family Division is responsible for supervision of the plan and on-going efforts to locate children absent from court-ordered placement without legal permission (AWOLP).
2. Cases of children AWOLP will receive priority from the 36th Circuit Court – Family Division, particularly those children under 15 years of age and children who may have been abducted.
3. The Family Division Administrator for the 36th Circuit Court is the designated AWOLP contact person and will maintain the list of any children from Van Buren County who are identified as AWOLP and will keep the Presiding Judge advised of information concerning those children on a weekly basis.
4. The Van Buren County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) will notify the Family Division Administrator of any child who is AWOLP by filing the DHHS 3198A Unauthorized Leave Report to the Court/Law Enforcement. The notice to the Court must occur within 24 hours of the agency notification of the child's absence.

Foster parent/relative caregivers, parents and residential facility staff must immediately (within one hour) notify law enforcement agencies (state police, local police, or the sheriff's department) and the supervising agency when a ward under their care fails to return at the expected time.

5. As soon as possible, but within 48 hours/two business days of notification, the foster care worker must commence a diligent search for the child. The foster care worker must notify the court and law enforcement of the results of the search.
6. The court will issue an Order to Take Child(ren) into Protective Custody and Place (Child Protective Proceedings when the court is notified that a child is AWOLP.
7. The court assigned to the child's case will schedule a hearing or a case status conference to ascertain steps that may be taken to locate and appropriately place the child. At the

hearing or case status conference, the court will: determine persons of interest who may have information to aid in locating the AWOLP child, make decisions regarding actions to be taken to locate the AWOLP child, and determine the appropriate actions to be taken when the AWOLP child has been located. The status conference will be scheduled within seven days of notification to the court that a child is AWOLP. Hearings will be scheduled as needed, ensuring at least a 7 day notice to interested persons. Should the Presiding Judge of the Family Division be unavailable, information will be provided to the Chief Judge for action consistent with this administrative order.

8. In its discretion, the court may use informal measures to locate, communicate with, and ensure proper placement of, an AWOLP child, and in all cases, the court will utilize all statutory and court rule authority to locate and expedite return of the AWOLP child to proper placement. The court will offer assistance consistent with this administrative order to law enforcement and the DHHS in locating AWOLP children.
9. The Family Division Administrator will monitor and report on the status of AWOLP children. Reports will be updated as necessary and will be filed with the proper authorities and the Chief Judge.
10. The Family Division Administrator will confer with the Director of Van Buren County DHHS to identify and remedy systemic problems as they arise.

Effective Date: 8-29-16

Date: 8/29/16

Chief Judge Signature Kathleen J. [Signature]

Melissa Williams

From: Region5 Info <Region5-Info@courts.mi.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 01, 2016 1:28 PM
To: Kathleen Brickley; Frank Hardester
Cc: Region5 Info
Subject: C36 2016-03 Cases Involving Children Absent from Court Ordered Placement Without Legal Permission - Approved

C36 2016-03 Cases Involving Children Absent from Court Ordered Placement Without Legal Permission - Approved
Rescinds 2003-02

This is to advise that we have reviewed the above referenced administrative order and find that it conforms to the requirements of MCR 8.112(B). This order is being accepted and filed until advised by your court of any change.

Jill Booth
Region V Administrator
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